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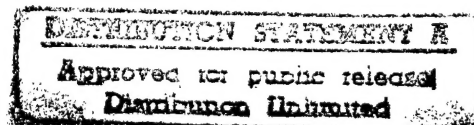
29 April 1960

SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

(23 February - 2 March 1960)

(45th of the series)

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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage : 23 February - 2 March 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 23 February - 2 March 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

C	=	<u>Ciel</u> (Zilina)	P	=	<u>Pochoden</u> (Hradec Kra-
HNK	=	<u>Hlas Nitrianskeho</u>			love)
		<u>Kraja</u> (Nitra)	Pra	=	<u>Pravda</u> (Plzen)
JP	=	<u>Jihoceska Pravda</u>	Pru	=	<u>Pruboj</u> (Usti nad Labem)
		(Budejovice)	R	=	<u>Rovnost</u> (Brno)
NP	=	<u>Nase Pravda</u> (Gottwaldov)	VN	=	<u>Vychodoslovenske Noviny</u>
NS	=	<u>Nova Svoboda</u> (Ostrava)			(Kosice)

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PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level

[See PART III. "ECONOMIC INFORMATION".]

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

There is no need to recall how the former bourgeois state cared for aged citizens. It is only the people's democratic system that ensures a peaceful and joyful autumn of life for its senior citizens. For instance, on 18 February 1960, retired citizens in Plana nad Luznici, Ceske Budejovice Kraj, received a new club room for their own use from the hands of National Committee representatives. Both the local and okres National Committees, as well as local enterprises, contributed toward it, and added gifts worth 1,700 koruny. The local National Committee promised to organize an inexpensive collective mess hall for elder citizens.

In Rudolfovo, near Ceske Budejovice, a club for pensioners was opened two days later. A small ceremony took place, attended by a folk music group and pupils from local schools. A member of the Ceske Budejovice theater recited humorous stories. Similar clubs will be established in a number of other communities of Ceske Budejovice Okres. (JP, 27 Feb, 60, p 3)

Since 1949, when there were 88 movie theaters in Nitra Kraj, their number has grown rapidly. At present there are 199, and 10 more will be established during 1960. In 1959, a total of 6,556,033 persons went to the movies : 2,266,120 of them saw Soviet films, 1,736,214 saw Czechoslovak films, and 1,201,123 persons saw films made in other people's democratic countries. Capitalist film productions drew 23.3 percent of the total movie audience in 1958, but in 1959 this dropped to 18.7 percent. It is planned that during 1960 35 percent of all movie-goers will see Soviet films.

In March 1960, the People's Film University will introduce new subjects in the theaters of our kraj, concentrating on education toward a materialistic world outlook. Among the new full-length pictures, the Chinese movie "Opium War" deserves special attention. (HNK, 27 Feb 60, p 9)

The Soviet documentary color film "N.S. Khrushchev in America" was seen by 85,226 people in Gottwaldov Kraj during the two months it was shown in the local movie theaters. Of this number, 19,600 were people who saw the film in Gottwaldov. (NP, 25 Feb 60, p 2)

A number of collectives in the "CZM" plant in Protivin, Ceske Budejovice kraj, are competing for the title of "Socialist Labor Brigade". Many of them are functionaries of the Party or of various mass organizations; they attend Party schooling and continue to improve their technical qualifications. For this reason, the Party organization asked its commission for mass production work to suggest which of these collectives should apply for award of the title.

Then the trouble started : the notebooks in which the work and attitude of each member are registered were all virtually the same. This was one, picked out at random : "May: No transgressions, fulfills her tasks. June: Good behavior at work and in private life, conscientious discharge of a functionary's duty, participates in production conferences and speaks up. July: exemplary behavior at work and in private life...."

The commission wanted to solve its dilemma by proposing that all collectives be awarded the title. But that would not do, and the proposal was returned with the request to review it - not on the basis of paper work, but with the people themselves. The formalism hidden in the notebooks must cease. Socialist competition may no longer be viewed via papers only. (JP, 1 Mar 60, p 2)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

The experiences of the recently held annual conferences of Slovak CP okres organizations in Nitra Kraj taught us that in many places Party activity is not yet satisfactory. Also, there are still not enough Party members. Continued attention will have to be paid to the growth of Party ranks

and improvement of its social and age composition.

Furthermore, it is necessary to apply the experience amassed so far and to seek continuously for new and better ways to persuade people, organize them, and instill in them enthusiasm for realization of our tasks. All available means of Party propaganda, agitation, and mass organizations will have to be employed toward this end. (HNK, 27 Feb 60, p 1)

The new territorial organization will bring about changes in the publication of kraj newspapers. Nase Pravda, published by the Gottwaldov Kraj KSC committee, after 26-27 March 1960 - the date of the kraj Party conference - will be published as an okres newspaper for Gottwaldov Okres. There will be only one kraj newspaper in the new South Moravian Kraj - Rovnost, published daily in Brno. Newspaper deliverers are now visiting subscribers of the present kraj newspaper asking them to transfer their subscription to the new daily which will be devoted to all of South Moravian Kraj. (NP, 1 Mar 60, p 2)

The Plzen Partypaper, Pravda is to be published as a daily as of 1 April 1960. (Pra, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Production, Productivity, Wages

B. KOEHLER, a secretary of the CC CPCS, addressed a Party activists' meeting in Ostrava on 19 February 1960. He reviewed coal production in the Ostrava-Karvina basin.

Although over-all production is satisfactory, there is no reason for complacency. In the past, once good production results were achieved, a slackening of effort set in. It is true that, to all practical purposes, coal production no longer hampers further development of national economy. However, the situation remains difficult in the field of coal for coking. There are only small reserves of coke available, technology in our coke industry is obsolete, and technicians in this branch of industry tend to conservatism.

A similar situation exists in the field of coal cleaning

machinery : machines are becoming obsolete and new machinery is slow in appearing. In addition, the question of using a third shift is not being solved with speed and imagination.

Hauling coal by mechanized means is being properly developed in the eastern part of the basin, but in the western part, where conditions for mechanization are more difficult, the possibilities for mechanized mining are not properly realized. The same is true of automation.

In the Ostrava coal basin the new wage system did not fulfill our expectations, KOEHLER declared. To carry it through the changeover, a sum of 120,000,000 koruny was poured into the Ostrava-Karvina basin itself. The new wage system was devised not only to bring about higher wages, but also to function as an incentive to increase labor productivity. But what is the situation in the basin ? The average monthly wage increased by 186 koruny in 1959 - it was 2,043 in 1958, 2,229 in 1959 - and it is 70 koruny higher than the relevant figures in the state plan. However, productivity of labor per one worker did not increase as planned : it was only 99.2 percent, a development which one cannot term as satisfactory.

In 1959, a total of 55,000,000 koruny was spent for production costs in one way or another, and it is of great importance that this year at least a one percent reduction in costs be realized.

Let us not forget another fact which to a considerable degree made last year's successes in coal mining possible : there were more workers than were actually needed. This situation induced managers in some mines and enterprises to underrate or neglect political education work, and to be slack in consideration of the workers' grievances and proposals. A number of workers left the basin in disillusionment.

Cooperative housing projects are developing only slowly - at the moment there are only three cooperatives in the basin and that is not enough.

For the Ostrava-Karvina basin, the goals are as follows : By 1965, coal production is to be increased by almost 6,000,000 tons in comparison with the 1960 goals. This means a total of 30,005,400 tons of coal. Of this volume, 2,331,000 tons are to come from two new mines, the "Sucha-

Stonava" and the "Dul CSM", while the rest is to come from the old but, by 1965, fully reconstructed mines.

These increased targets can be met, primarily, through an increase in labor productivity. In 1965, productivity of labor is to reach 359.1 tons per worker per year. However, labor productivity in the basin has been rising only minutely during the last few years - the past four years it rose by less than one percent. There are great differences in labor productivity between various types of work in the mines and between various shifts. There are too many unproductive shifts.

Proper planning and, above all, intensive mechanization are the answer in dealing with this problem. By 1965, some 13,810,000 tons of coal are to be hauled mechanically, an increase of 138 percent over 1959. Stabilization of the labor force in the basin is another most important issue. Let us not forget that the planned increase in labor productivity will require an increase of almost 4,000 workers in the total labor force - and this figure does not take into consideration the planned shortening of the working week. With new mines to open soon, we have to find out where we are to get the workers from - and how and when - since we need qualified workers who are not to be found on every corner. This question cannot be pushed aside once again nor can everything be left till the last moment. (NS, 25 Feb 60, p 3)

In January 1960, the planned costs for each ton of coal extracted in the Ostrava coal basin were exceeded by 0.40 koruny. This was revealed at a meeting of representatives of the Ostrava mines which registered the highest increase in costs per ton of coal. Among them was the "Stakhanov" mine, where it cost 27.48 koruny more than planned to extract a ton of coal, the "Cingr" mine - with 25.17 koruny of excess costs per ton, and the "Stalin" mine - with 8.17 koruny in excess costs.

These excess costs were caused chiefly by failure to achieve the planned output, high consumption of materials and power, too many unproductive shifts, large write-offs, incorrect ratio between labor productivity and earnings, and so on.

The present managers of these mines were requested to submit proposals for specific measures designed to remove these shortcomings to next week's session of the Politburo

of the Ostrava Kraj KSC committee. (NS, 24 Feb 60, p 1)

1959 was a year of good results for Zilina Kraj industries, which exceeded the year's target in the production of goods by 1.6 percent. However, certain individual enterprises achieved far less satisfactory results. This was particularly true of the "Zavody Presneho Strojarnstva" (Precision Engineering Works) in Kysucke Nove Mesto, which failed to reduce the amount of rejects, the great volume of non-productive expenses, absenteeism and wasted time. The volume of rejects was still as high as 5,000,000 koruny, and unproductive expenses amounted to 2,000,000 koruny.

The "Kovohuty" (metallurgical) enterprises in Mokrad also suffered from a large volume of rejects and failed to meet the 1959 plan. The "Spojene Sklarne" (United Glass Works) in Ledn Rovne failed to achieve the planned accumulation [sic], having overspent 1,758,000 koruny while producing 790,000 koruny less goods than planned. The "Severoslovenske Celulozky a Papierne" (North Slovakian Cellulose and Paper Mills) in Ruzomberok exceeded the planned volume of overtime work by more than 100,000 hours during 1959. (C, 28 Feb 60, pp 1,4)

Labor Problems

At present, 300 small children are cared for in Hradec Kralove city kindergartens. And 300 more are waiting for placement - or rather, their mothers are waiting, so that they can start work in factories and other enterprises. That is not all, however. In the next few years, 3,000 more women are to be employed. What is to be done ?

The problem can be solved the moment the various plants and enterprises realize that in order to obtain additional labor from the ranks of women, they themselves have to plan and build kindergartens. Some enterprises simply do not bother. The standard answer is that no funds are available for such purposes. This is true. However, how are these enterprises to fulfill their production goals if they wait until the strictly economic aspects of these activities are planned for ?

The simple fact is that these plants will be dead wrong if they continue to rely on state-built and state-supported kindergartens. Women employed in the various plants should

make it their duty to explain the issue to the plant managers and get them to take a less selfish attitude. (P, 1 Mar 60, p 3)

A successful drive was recently concluded in the schools of Cesly Tesin, Ostrava Kraj. By the end of October, 1959, 50 boys had signed their pledges to become miners. Three other boys have joined since. They will all be members of the "most honored profession of all - mining". (NS, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

Transportation and Communications

It is very urgent that measures be adopted ensuring smooth movement of railroad cars in the Ostrava central junction. Delays in the Ostrava main station must be reduced to the minimum. The locomotive depot in Prostredni Sucha had a share of responsibility in the winter difficulties on the Ostrava railroads, since it failed to maintain its locomotives properly in cold weather and there were many failures.

Almost every day some locomotive engineer has to work 20 hours or even more without interruption, although the total trip he made may have been as short as from Ostrava to Preror and back. Since this happens even to the most experienced engineers, it is necessary to look somewhere else for the people responsible.

In January 1960 alone, heavy trains made 1,200 unscheduled stops on the Bohumin-Zilina route. One of the results - apart from delaying railroad cars so urgently needed - was the growth of deficits in locomotive depots, caused by excessive consumption of coal - for locomotives have to be fired even if they are standing on the track. The "Banska Draha" (Mine Route) often registers cases in which a locomotive runs only 20 kilometers within 12 hours, but burns the same quantity of coal as if it had travelled 100 kilometers. Everything points to the necessity to improve the management of railroad traffic in Ostrava Kraj. (NS, 24 Feb, 60, p 1)

Foreign Trade and Delegations

Several short films advertising the Second Industrial

Fair in Brno, to be held during the summer of 1960, were shown to the press in Brno. One of them, entitled "The International Fair in Brno", has narrations in Russian, German, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. It will be shown all over the world. The French film company "Gaumont Actualites" completed another short entitled "A Picture-Postcard from Czechoslovakia". This has already been shown in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and over the Luxembourg television network. (R, 25 Feb 60, p 1)

Thousands of travellers, visitors to the Leipzig fair, are currently crossing the Czechoslovak-German frontier at Hrensko, Usti nad Labem Kraj, by train and bus. Thus, as in the past years, traffic is lively in this part of our kraj. At the time of the 1959 fair, no fewer than 300,000 passengers passed through Hrensko in both directions; some 50,000 of them were Czechoslovak citizens. (Pru, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

A delegation from the German Democratic Republic, consisting of Gerhard GRUENEBERG, a secretary of the CC SED Central Committee [CP of East Germany], and Hans REICHEL, Minister of Agriculture, visited Hradec Kralove Kraj and several agricultural establishments. (P, 25 Feb 60, p 1)

An exhibition of a huge project now being built in Ranch, India, with the technical assistance of the "Leninovy Zavody" in Plzen was opened on the premises of the works. The project, a new plant for machine metallurgy, is of tremendous proportions, as the exhibit indicates. After completion, the Ranch works will produce machinery to be installed in a heavy machinery industrial plant which is currently being built for India by the Soviet Union. (Pra, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Church and Religion

In the past, the low degree of development of people's productive capacities and the limited amount of scientific knowledge gave rise to a feeling of man's powerlessness, which in turn led to the rise of religions. Man's look into the future became tied with the concept of "mysterious forces", and religious "prophets" claimed to interpret the

will of these higher beings and to know the future commanded by them. "Sacred books" were full of prophecies, but these failed to materialize. Neither did the prophecy about Jesus being the Messiah : he never actually lived as a historical person.

The passivity fostered by religion becomes an obstacle in a Socialist society, because it leads to a lack of faith in the fulfillment of economic plans and the construction of Communism. The building of Socialism is not based on fairy tales, but on the scientific foundations of Marxism-Leninism, on the knowledge of natural and scientific laws. (HNK, 27 Feb 60, p 2)

Youth Activities

In the Koh-i-noor enterprise in Ceske Budejovice, Party guidance of the CSM organization has brought good results. The CSM organization in the plant became the best in the okres. In 1959, its members put in more than 700 hours of brigade work on amelioration projects, and built up nearly 175 cubic meters of compost. (JP, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

The 1959 CSM Study Year in Kromeriz Okres, Gottwaldov Kraj, registered improvement over the results achieved in 1958. In the Kromeriz 11-year school alone there are 187 participants in 17 circles. In the okres, a total of 45 talks on the subject "The USSR on the Path toward Communism", 10 talks with old Party members, and 15 talks on juvenile delinquency were organized - among other activities - during 1959. (NP, 25 Feb 60, p 2)

Pupils of the 8-year school in Jindrichuv Hradec, Ceske Budejovice Kraj, and of the 12-year school in Strakonice have engaged in a commendable effort : they have taken their classrooms into Socialist care. Individual classes compete in cleanliness, keeping their classrooms well decorated, their school benches painted, and so on. The most valuable result is the strengthening of a new attitude toward Socialist property among the pupils. (JP, 25 Feb 60, p 3)

Some people like to say that our youth misbehaves. But the facts are that juvenile delinquency is about one-half lower now than during the First pre-war Republic, while in the USA, according to Hoover's data, juvenile delinquency is 3.5 to 4 times as high as in our country.

But even if we have eliminated the capitalist causes of delinquency - such as unemployment and hunger - delinquency is still among us as an undesirable remnant of the capitalist society. Our young people are not isolated from adults, and therefore adopt a number of their "remnant" weaknesses. And here is the root of our problem : parents must provide proper guidance for our youth and offer it a good example. (NS, 23 Feb 60, p 3)

Twenty-six Soviet Komsomol members from Irkutsk in Siberia have come to Karvina for a five-day visit upon invitation of the CSM okres committee. The Soviet guests will visit a number of enterprises in Karvina Okres. They have already seen a performance of Smetana's "Bartered Bride" in the Zdenek Nejedly Theater in Ostrava, which they liked very much. (NS, 23 Feb 60, p 1)

Other Items

In 1945, the population of what is now Ostrava Kraj was about 680,000. By the end of 1960, it is expected to increase to 1,020,000. Within these 15 years, the natural increase amounted to about 155,000 persons. Thus, by far the greater part of the population increase was due to migration. For instance, in 1953 alone, when work was begun on the "Nova Hut Klementa Gottwalda (Klement Gottwald's New Metallurgical Combine), 16,000 persons moved to Ostrava. In 1956 and 1957, the average increase in population due to migration was about 5,000 annually, but since 1958 it has been again rising.

Between 1945 and 1958, 70,000 apartments were completed in the kraj, providing housing for about 280,000 people. Approximately 17,000 apartments more have been or will be completed in 1959 and 1960. But to provide adequate housing for the entire population of the kraj, it will be necessary to build another 57,800 apartments under the Third Five-Year Plan. (NS, 23 Feb 60, p 2)

In one single day, a Sunday, 3,500 people visited the "model" apartment house in Hradec Kralove. For the first time a modern apartment house was on view - or rather, a finished part of it, built exclusively from prefabricated panels. Eager visitors are able to register their opinions in a special visitors' book. (P, 1 Mar 60, p 1)

This is the last call, addressed to all people working

in our forests, to cooperative members, state farm personnel - and to ordinary citizens : do not destroy electric cables. This warning has been issued several times already in the form of leaflets, letters, and newspaper articles. However, this unfortunate practice continues. Not only do fallen trees destroy lines and cables, but in a number of instances underground cables were deliberately destroyed whenever they interfered with work on roads, water pipes, or with the redemption of land. In the future, offenders will be handed over to the prosecutor, since interests of the national economy are involved. (P, 1 Mar 60, p 3)

Karel DEMEL was one of the ten richest citizens of Valasske Mezirici, Gottwaldov Kraj. He owned a large jewelry store and a six-room luxury apartment, which he has been occupying until now. After 1951, his life - on the outside - became very modest : he went around poorly dressed, and although he earned 1,700 koruny a month as an employee of the local watch repair shop, he kept complaining about his difficult financial situation.

In January 1960, DEMEL ceased to show up on the street. Instead, citizens of Valasske Mezirici could see a little exhibit, studded with gold, diamond rings, and other things. It was DEMEL's hidden nest egg - hidden in false drawers, double library shelves, in the sugar bowl and bread crumbs, even in the pot for chicken feed - where there were gold coins. All this lost was worth 304,700 koruny.

DEMEL was a good performer, but he will get a different reward from what he expected. It will include punishment for the hoarding of gold and for speculation.

- END -

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